



City of Cincinnati

Comments on the Bush Administration's Proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

The City of Cincinnati has several concerns about the Bush Administration's proposed FY 2008 Budget. The following proposals will have the most harmful impact on Cincinnati:

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Bush administration proposal: a change in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding formula as well as a \$732 million cut to the total CDBG appropriation amount.

Impact on Cincinnati: Under the current CDBG funding formula, the City of Cincinnati will receive \$14.6 million in CDBG dollars in 2007. The Bush administration's proposed revision of this formula would make Cincinnati eligible for 23% fewer CDBG dollars in future years. Additionally, the \$732 million cut to the total CDBG appropriation amount would make fewer dollars available for housing and job opportunities in Cincinnati.

Department of Justice

Bush administration proposal: a substantial reduction in funding for local law enforcement partnership programs from \$2.481 billion to \$1.234.

Impact on Cincinnati: Cincinnati has received funding through the COPS program, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grants, Byrne Justice Assistance Grants, and the Weed and Seed program. Each of those violence reduction programs would be see significantly reduced funding under this proposal.

Department of Homeland Security

Bush administration proposal: a cut to the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) from \$747 million to \$600 million; an elimination of funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS); a cut to the Assistance to Firefighters Grants from \$663 million to \$300 million.

Impact on Cincinnati: The UASI has been the backbone for regional disaster planning and preparedness for Cincinnati. The City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County have received almost \$31 million in UASI money since 2003, including \$4.66 million in 2006.

The MMRS grant program is being used to fund Personal Protective Equipment for first responders and to bolster Cincinnati's regional pharmaceutical stockpile for use in the event of a biological attack or disease outbreak. MMRS also funds a sizable portion of the Emergency Operations Plans for the City. Cincinnati received \$232,300 from FY 06 MMRS funds. Since FY 2000, the region has received roughly \$1.5 million from MMRS.

The City has received Assistance to Firefighter Grants in the past and, with a new fire grants administrator, hopes to make even better use of this funding source in the future.